(Copy) Roxbury, Dec. 28. 1874. 13

Dear friend May:

If my letter of the 19th instant gave you special pleasure because of its spirit and sentiments, yours in reply afforded me the greatest satisfaction for the same reason. Indeed, that we are in such accord in our "prevaling line of thought," our "hopes and faith," respecting the future life, is very strengthening to my spirit.

As to my seventieth birthday, I purposely kept the remembrance of it within my own family circle; feeling unwilling to have any outside notice given of it, in order that none of my friends should be subjected (however willingly) to the trouble or expense of sending some token of regard with their congratulations.

I meant to have thanked you ere this, by letter as I did in my heart at the time, for so kindly stating to Dr Bowditch my crippled condition; and I felt not less obliged to him for recommending me to a physician in whose medical skill he placed so much confidence. I should have followed his friendly advice, had it not been that I had just had a very careful diagnosis made of my case, by Dr Edward H. Clarke, who, after two examinations, pronounced it not a rheumatic affection, but "a sub-acute inflammation of the periosteum," now become chronic. "O," said he, "I wish it were as easy to cure you, or to give you relief, as it is to decide the nature of your trouble". He further said that no external applications would avail any thing — a fact that I had well assured by more than a year's persevering and varied trial. Internal treatment would be more or less baffled because there are so few absorbent vessels connected with the knees. He simply prescribed the use of bromide of ammonia, and a measured walk from

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day to day, very short at first, and gradually extending it; and then to report to him at the end of ten or twelve days. Before that time expired, I unfortunately took too long a walk in the city late at night, (having spent the evening by invitation at Prof. Henry Adams's, in Marlboro' Street, in order to meet my friend Mr. William E. Forster of England,) failing to get a horse-car until I reached the head of Dover Street. The result was, that my left knee became very much swollen, and great inflammation with the sharpest pains followed; so that I was obliged to send for my family physician, Dr Paine, and have been under homoeopathic treatment by his almost daily attendance ever since. Dr Paine concurred with Dr Clarke as to the seat and nature of the disease, but enjoined a trial of perfect rest for some time; and, consequently, I have been pretty closely confined at home. I am now about where I was before I consulted Dr Clarke, though relieved (probably by abstaining from exercise) of the acute suffering brought on in the manner I have stated. Satisfied that my present treatment is of little or no avail, and having spent hundreds of dollars in experiments (to no purpose) during the last twenty months, I may as well, perhaps, "throw physic to the dogs," and fall back upon "water" and a nutritive diet. — But too much of my ailments.

Yours by the strongest ties,

Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

P. S. Love to all your family.

☞ Though my last letter to you was written for your perusal, you are at liberty to use it as you may wish. — As a Christmas remembrance, I sent you by mail a copy of Putnam's Hymns and Songs of the Liberal Faith.

Dec. 28. 1874